ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

ADULT OFFENDER SERVICES

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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THE OFFENDER POPULATION

Alberta Correctional Services' custody facilities admit close to 30,000 adults each year. Of these, approximately 18,000 are sentenced to serve a period of incarceration. The majority, in fact 60%, of offenders with custody dispositions are sentenced to 30 days or less; approximately 77% have sentences of 90 days or less; only 6% are serving sentences of more than one year. Over 90% of offenders in provincial custody are serving sentences for non-violent offences.

Community corrections programs are responsible for supervising an annual average of 1,000 cases in the Pre-Trial Supervision Program; 7,000 Probation cases; more than 12,000 Fine Option Program cases; and approximately 11,000 offenders granted early release on the Temporary Absence Program. In addition, Correctional Services staff supervise a daily average of 750 offenders who have been released by the National Parole Board on Mandatory Supervision, Day Parole or Full Parole.

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Direct enquiries to:

Alberta Correctional Services
10th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building
10365 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada
T5J 3W7
(403) 427-3441

MISSION - ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

It is the mission of Alberta Correctional Services to protect society from persons who engage in criminal behaviour, by supplying a range of community supervision and incarceration programs, and by providing offenders with assistance and opportunities to become law-abiding citizens.

PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAM DELIVERY

Alberta Correctional Services relies on a set of principles when developing programs to carry out its Mission. These are:

- that society has the right to resort to sanctions, restrictions and control of offenders within the parameters of sentences imposed by the court;
- that offenders are entitled to the protections guaranteed within the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and must have a method of redress for their complaints and concerns through a review process;
- that corrective measures imposed on offenders will be those which are least intrusive and most cost efficient, having regard for the legal requirements of dispositions and the safety of citizens and correctional staff;
- that the use of community corrections alternatives in lieu of incarceration is preferred where it is safe and appropriate to do so;
- that effective program delivery necessitates consultation with and involvement of the non-governmental sector and citizen volunteers;
- that offenders are responsible for their behaviour and that it is incumbent upon them to avail themselves of the programs and services provided;
- that all persons engaged in program delivery to offenders, including government employees, contracted staff, agency representatives and volunteers are entitled to be fully informed in regards to the circumstances and needs of offenders under their care, to ensure a safe and integrated approach to offender management; and
- that correctional staff will be appropriately qualified and trained to carry out the Mission of Alberta Correctional Services in accordance with the stated Principles of Program Delivery.

OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM SERVICE

To fulfill its Mission in accordance with the stated Principles of Program Delivery, Alberta Correctional Services directs its fiscal and manpower resources toward the following Objectives of Program Service:

- to assist the court by providing a range of report, custody and community supervision services and to ensure that the court is informed of available resources, initiatives and sentencing alternatives;

- to carry out the sentences of the court, having regard for the intent of the court as documented on Orders of Supervision or Warrants of Committal, and for the provision in legislation of conditional release;

- to assess the risk and needs of offenders committed to its jurisdiction and to supervise and manage offenders in accordance with individualized plans;

- to assist and encourage offenders to avail themselves of services and programs related to their needs for the purpose of developing the ability and skills necessary to conduct independent, law-abiding lives;

- in administering sentences, to apply the least restrictive course which meets legal requirements, maximizing the use of graduated conditional release, community supervision and community support programs, where it is safe and appropriate to do so;

- to facilitate community participation in the corrections process and the reintegration of offenders into the community by using the resources provided by the non-government sector and citizen volunteers;

- to promptly investigate and respond to incidents, complaints or enquiries from citizens, offenders and staff;
- to maintain and evaluate statistics and information on relevant programs and services for the purpose of planning and research, and to exchange such information with other jurisdictions;
- to maintain active and informed interaction with other components of the criminal justice system both within and outside Alberta;
- to provide staff with the skills and career opportunities necessary to permit a high level of job performance and job satisfaction;
- to maintain responsive labour relations management.

NOTES ON THE MISSION STATEMENT

The traditional dual nature of the mission of corrections, to punish and to reform wrongdoers, has been apparent since the introduction of the penitentiary, in Pennsylvania in 1818. Canada's first penitentiary opened in Kingston, Ontario, 16 years later. It embodied the same principles and objectives. The purpose of corrections remains a dual one today: to provide secure custody and supervision of convicted persons, while providing offenders with opportunities for rehabilitation, thereby enhancing the long-term protection of citizens.

The mission of corrections has been subject to continual modification and adjustment, tied closely to the prevailing moral and political trends of the day. A review of these historical developments, however, demonstrates a persistent belief that society is best protected by a combination of custody and rehabilitative programs.

The Quakers in the early 19th century believed the dual mission of corrections could be accomplished by the "moral treatment" approach. It was their belief that strict isolation, silence, hard work, and austere conditions would promote reflection and repentance. In the 1820's this approach was modified somewhat, as a "congregate" rather than a "separate" approach was adopted. Communal work was introduced to enhance productivity and increase the opportunity for self-sufficiency within the prison system. A side effect of this system was the absolute control of the warden, which in some instances contributed to corruption and harsh treatment of prisoners. This led to the Brown Commission of 1849—and reform of some of the most atrocious barbarities and corrupt practices. The emphasis on work, however, has

been retained as an essential component of corrections to this date.

The next major development in corrections' history originated in Ireland, and involved a system of inmate grades, earned remission, gradual release, open institutions and parole. Earned remission was introduced in Canada in 1868, allowing inmates to achieve privileges and early release by good conduct. In 1899, the Ticket of Leave Act was passed, formally acknowledging the merit principle in corrections. These measures ushered in a new era that emphasized individualized case assessment of performance and the use of discretion in the administration of sentences.

The 20th century witnessed development of the social sciences, with the accompanying belief that crime resulted from natural, understandable and potentially curable causes. This belief culminated in the expectation that criminal behaviour could be cured if the correct treatment was applied. This trust in a "scientific approach" was not, however, accompanied by a corresponding menu of necessary programs and services. The theory, whether valid or not, was never appropriately put to the test. In 1938, the Archambeault Report found an almost complete lack of programs designed to bring about rehabilitation.

Archambeault made a series of recommendations that echoed the reports of reformers and prison administrators, and earlier studies back to the Brown Commission. Central program planning, classification of inmates, a fair discipline process, improved recreation, education and medical services, modernized work activities, inmate pay, probation, parole and assistance to voluntary organizations—all were among the recommendations. Actual reform, however, was slow: the National Parole Board was not established until 1958, and the

provincial Temporary Absence Program was not introduced in Alberta until 1976.

In the meantime, a growing skepticism emerged about the merit and validity of rehabilitation programs; the climbing crime rate and persistent recidivism gave way to the "nothing works" theory and demands on the part of the public for "just deserts" and punishment. Prison authorities increasingly acknowledged their inability to cure offenders, yet were faced with the expectation that they "do something" to rehabilitate criminals. These circumstances have given rise to the "opportunities model" where corrections systems are charged with the responsibility of supplying a custodial environment which encourages offenders to assume responsibility for their rehabilitation, while providing them with opportunities to improve their educational, vocational and social skills. Simultaneously, experience with parole, temporary absence programs, intensive supervision, electronic surveillance and other innovative programs, as well as the increasing fiscal and human costs of imprisonment, led justice officials to the conclusion that incarceration should be applied with restraint. As a result, there is increased emphasis across the country on community dispositions and corrections programs involving cooperation among departments and jurisdictions, as well as citizens.

The Mission of Alberta Correctional Services is a reflection of North American corrections history. The early notions of punishment and reform are still present. However, these are modified by a differential approach which ensures the application of security measures to offenders assessed as posing a threat to citizens. Alternative methods of supervision and rehabilitation are sought in the community for the remainder. For this reason a range of supervision and custody programs is provided. These include, where necessary, maximum

security and restrictions which focus on exposing offenders to services and programs providing the skills necessary to adopt a law-abiding lifestyle. As 77% of admissions to Alberta Correctional Services serve less that 90 days in custody, the long term protection of society can only be enhanced if correctional resources are focused on preparing offenders for return to the community and optimizing their chances to assume responsibility upon release. The underlying assumption of this approach is that most offenders have the potential to function as law-abiding citizens.

Therefore, increasing emphasis is placed on limiting the period of incarceration served by offenders and assessing offenders for graduated release under community supervision, which requires attendence at various supportive community programs designed to address their needs. However, Alberta Correctional Services recognizes the necessity of strict enforcement of controls and the application of the highest level of security, when necessary.

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MISSION & PROGRAMS

ADULT OFFENDER SERVICES

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

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MISSION & PROGRAMS

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DIRECT ENQUIRIES TO:

ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
10TH FLOOR, JOHN E. BROWNLEE BUILDING
10365 - 97 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA
T5J 3W7
(403) 427-3441

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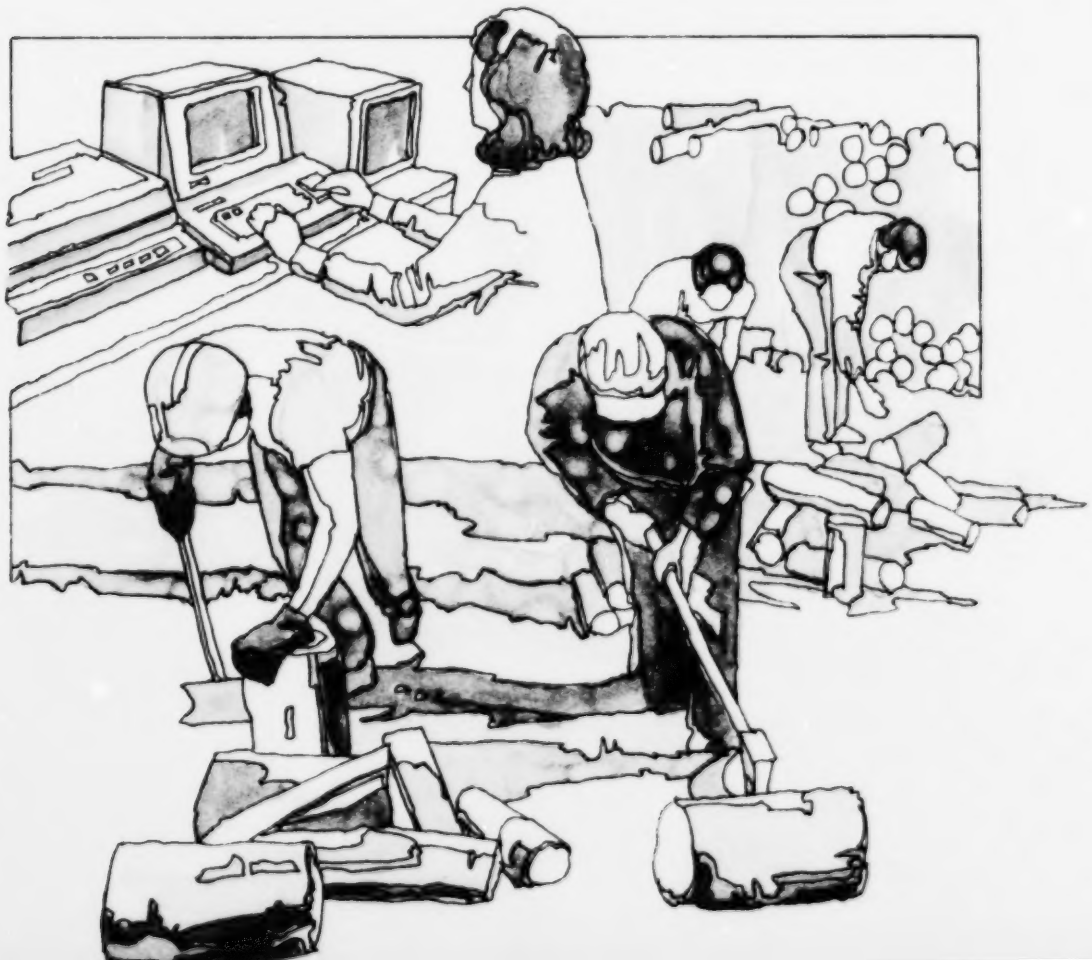

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- to maintain responsive labour relations management.

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Just as the mission of corrections has changed over the years, the responsibility for the administration of the correctional system in Alberta has shifted too. Originally, the Royal North West Mounted Police was the agency responsible for providing correctional services in Alberta. When the province joined Confederation in 1905, correctional services became the responsibility of the provincial department of Housing and Public Works.

The first provincial correctional facility opened at Lethbridge, in 1911. It was followed by a new facility for male prisoners at Fort Saskatchewan in 1914, and then by a facility for female prisoners, also at the Fort Saskatchewan site, in 1918.

Responsibility for corrections was transferred to the provincial Attorney General's Department in 1948. Three years later, the minimum security Bowden Institute was opened. Bowden offered academic, vocational and trades training programs to youthful offenders between the ages of 16 and 25. In 1974, the Bowden Institute was transferred to the federal government. Today, it is used by the Correctional Service of Canada as a medium security institution.

In 1951, the Alberta Attorney General's Department established a Juvenile Offenders Branch. This Branch provided the province's first probation service. Probation services were expanded in 1954 to include adult offenders. During that same year, the Belmont Rehabilitation Centre was established to provide therapeutic programs to offenders with alcohol problems. In 1971 this facility was converted to a community correctional centre.

The opening of the Calgary Correctional Centre in 1958 permitted the correctional system to improve service to the area surrounding the City of Calgary. A decade passed before the next facility, the Peace River Correctional Centre, was opened in 1968.

In 1970, the responsibility for juvenile probation was transferred to the Department of Health and Social Welfare. The adult probation service, however, remained as part of the Attorney General's Department. In 1973, responsibility for adult corrections was transferred from the Attorney General to the Correctional Services Division of the newly created Department of the Solicitor General. The new Division's mandate was the administration of adult correctional facilities and the provision of probation services for adult offenders.

The Correctional Services Division established a separate Community Corrections Branch in 1974, in order to coordinate the expansion and introduction of community based programs. During 1974, the Calgary Remand Centre opened. In 1976, the Adult Probation Branch and the Community Corrections Branch merged to create the Community Services Branch, renamed as the Community Corrections Branch in 1977.

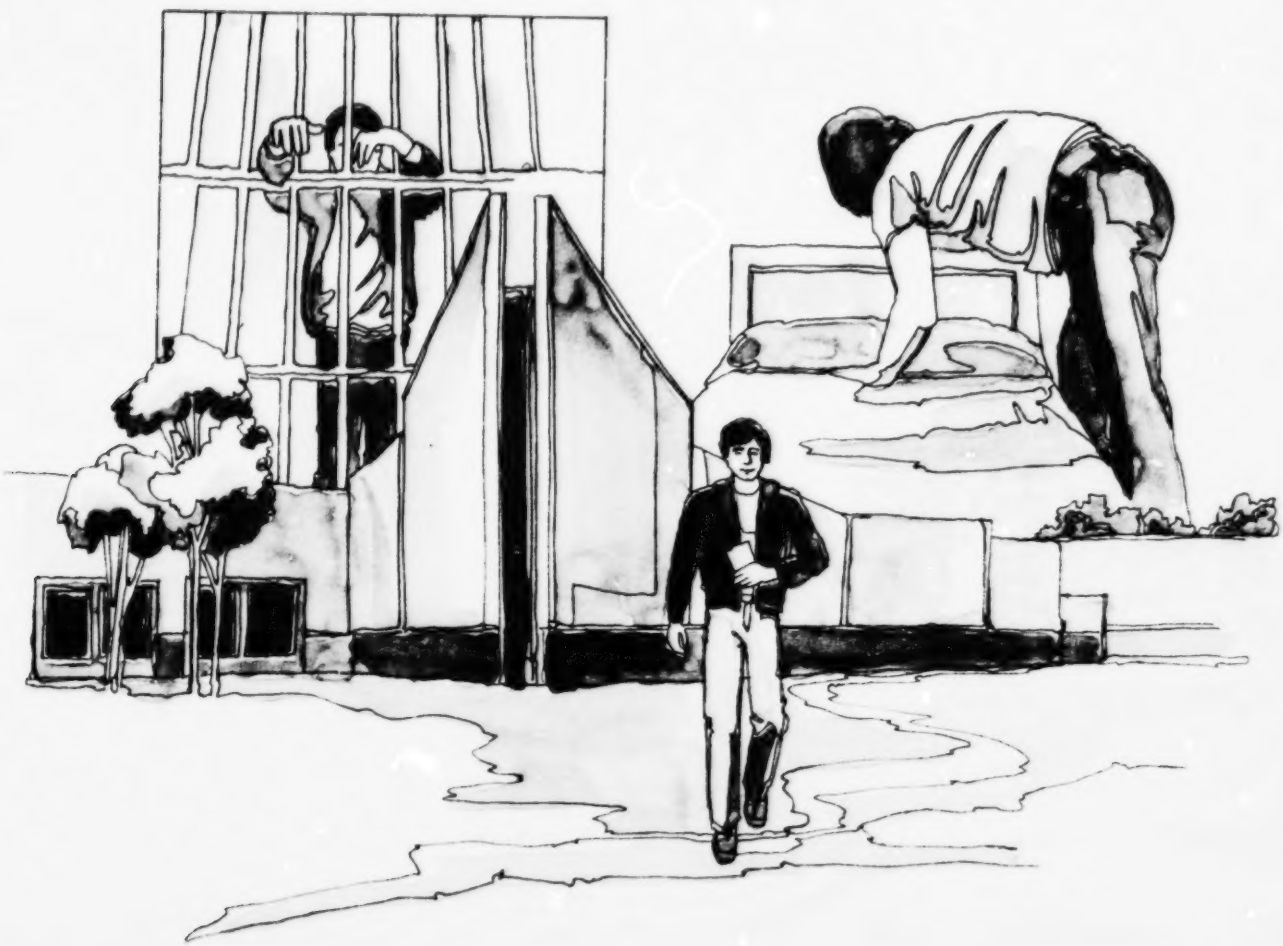
In 1980, a major reorganization of Alberta Correctional Services resulted in the decentralization and integration of institutional and community based operations. The Community Corrections and Institutional Services Branches were combined to form a number of regions with responsibility for the delivery of all correctional services within their respective geographical area, and to coordinate the various components and services of the correctional system, manpower and financial resources. As a result of this decentralization, the Division's head office became less involved in day to day operational issues and more active in planning, policy and program development.

Additional correctional facilities were opened in the late 1970s and early 1980s to replace aging or obsolete facilities, to provide a broader facility and program base, and to accommodate the dramatic increase in the prison population which had accompanied the economic boom and population increase brought about by energy development in Alberta. These facilities included the Edmonton Remand Centre and the Lakeside Correctional Centre (1979), the St. Paul Correctional Centre (1980), the Bow River Correctional Centre (1981), the Lethbridge Correctional Centre (1983) and the Grande Cache Correc-

tional Centre (1985). These facilities were followed by the opening of the remand facilities in Medicine Hat and Red Deer in 1987, and the new Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre in 1988. With the declaration of the Young Offenders Act in 1984, the Department of the Solicitor General also resumed full responsibility for the delivery of the Young Offender Program in 1985. A separate Young Offender Branch was established within the Department in 1986.

In recent years, increased emphasis has been placed on the delivery of community corrections programs and services by non-profit private agencies under a contractual agreement with the Correctional Services Division. The involvement of citizens as volunteers in a range of supportive roles within the service delivery system has also become more prevalent. This facilitates the involvement of the public in the corrections service and enhances the base of overall supervision and program support for offenders.

Finally, a recent and important development is the expansion of agreements between the federal and provincial governments which enables the Province of Alberta to accommodate an increasing number of minimum and medium security federal offenders in its facilities, and to assume full responsibility for the administration of the Parole Program in Alberta. Exchange of Service Agreements in this regard were signed in 1986 and 1987, and have resulted in the delivery of an integrated, efficient and effective custody and community corrections supervision program in Alberta.



COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS

Alberta Correctional Services offers community based programs to adult offenders through a network of community corrections offices located across the province.

Correctional Services staff, working as probation officers, supervise adult offenders involved in community based programs such as pre-trial release, fine option, probation, community service and temporary absence. In addition, they provide parole supervision under contract to the Correctional Service of Canada.

Guidelines for the supervision of adult offenders participating in community corrections programs are detailed in a comprehensive policies and procedures manual. Introduced in 1977, the manual serves to consolidate and establish provincial standards for offender supervision, casework documentation and investigative reports. The manual is subject to ongoing revision as necessary. An internal audit procedure is in effect, to ensure that provincial policies are understood, adhered to and amended as needed.

The following information provides a description of adult community corrections programs in Alberta.

PRE-TRIAL SERVICES

Alberta Correctional Services provides the courts with alternative methods of releasing accused persons to the community through the Pre-Trial Services Program. Some phases of the program are delivered by the John Howard Societies of Calgary and Edmonton, under contract to Alberta Correctional Services.

Bail Assistance (Calgary and Edmonton) – Bail assistance programs are operated at both the Calgary and Edmonton Remand Centres, under contract with the John Howard Society. Each day, John Howard Society staff attend the centres to assist persons in meeting bail conditions. The type of assistance offered may be as simple as helping the accused inform a friend or relative of his or her circumstances and the procedure to secure release, or be as involved as negotiating an individual contract to provide bail funds through the John Howard Society's Judicial Interim Release Program. The funds utilized to effect release have been contributed by sentenced offenders who authorize the expenditure of a certain proportion of the Inmate Welfare Fund for this purpose.

The Judicial Interim Release Program provides short term loans to assist accused persons in meeting bail conditions. The Society encourages the accused to contribute toward meeting the cash bail amount.

In both Calgary and Edmonton, the John Howard Society offers a community residential centre program to provide accommodation for persons who do not have a residence in the community. Persons accepted in the Judicial Interim Release Program may be required to reside at a community residential centre as part of their contract with the Society.

Bail Appeal (Calgary and Edmonton) – Accused persons who have been denied bail, or who are unable to meet bail conditions established by the provincial court, are entitled, after 30 days, to a bail review at the Court of Queen's Bench. John Howard Society staff may assist defence attorneys in making a presentation to the Court of Queen's Bench by promoting the development of release plans for their clients. Such plans may suggest that the accused live at one of the Society's community residential centres.

Bail Supervision – The most active component of the Pre-Trial Services Program is the supervision of individuals released on bail by the courts. The supervision task is carried out by probation officers or by John Howard Society staff (in the case of individuals placed under the Society's supervision by the courts).

The primary objective of bail supervision is to ensure that the conditions of bail are met.

Such conditions may include regular reporting by the accused and follow-up to ensure that the accused attends court as required.

During 1986/87, a total of 1,076 adult offenders (916 males and 160 females) participated in various components of the bail program.

FINE OPTION PROGRAM

The Fine Option Program offers offenders the opportunity to engage in a community service project in lieu of, or as a supplement to, the cash payment of fines. Before the introduction of this program in 1976, fine defaulters were routinely arrested and imprisoned. This increased the inmate population inside correctional centres, places a strain on correctional resources and caused serious disruption in the lives of many offenders.

Paradoxically, relatively minor offenders, often of modest financial resources, found themselves incarcerated in correctional centres, where an introduction to a criminal lifestyle by more hardened criminals was a real possibility. Offences which normally would have resulted only in a financial penalty could in this way become the first step towards a criminal career.

The Fine Option Program is designed to operate in two phases. First, when convicted in court and sentenced to pay a fine, offenders are advised in writing that they may contact a community corrections office, prior to the fine's due date, and arrange to participate in the Fine Option Program. Participants then enter into an agreement which specifies work placement at a charitable or non-profit community agency and the number of hours of service required to satisfy the fine. They are credited for their work at a uniform hourly rate. This program phase is referred to as pre-institutional fine option.

The second phase of the program is designed for offenders who fail to pay their fines or apply for the program previous to the default date. Defaulting on the payment of fines will result in the issuance of an arrest warrant. Once incarcerated, these offenders are interviewed, either in police holding cells or immediately upon admission to a correctional centre, to determine their eligibility for the Fine Option Program. If accepted in the program, a temporary absence pass is arranged to permit work at a community project during the day. Those participating in this program phase are required to reside at a correctional centre, or a community residential centre, until their fines are satisfied. This program phase is referred to as institutional fine option.

Failure to complete a Fine Option Program agreement will result in the execution of a default warrant and, in the case of institutional fine option participants, cancellation of the temporary absence permit.

The Fine Option Program results in the contribution of a significant amount of volunteer labour to community projects. Typical projects include maintenance work for community leagues, hospitals and senior citizens' homes. Other frequent recipients of service include the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Salvation Army and Band Councils on Native reserves. The administration of fine option programs is often provided by non-profit agencies on a contract basis, which ensures that offender labour is directed towards priority community projects.

In 1986/87 over 12,000 persons participated in the two phases of the Fine Option Program. The total hours of work performed were 566,360 hours which satisfied approximately $2.8 million in fines.

PROBATION

Probation is a sentence of the court which is served in the community, usually under the supervision of a probation officer. Some of those who will receive a sentence of probation are referred to community corrections staff prior to sentencing in order that a Pre-Sentence Report may be prepared. However, approximately 60% of offenders placed on probation have not had a Pre-Sentence Report ordered by the court. They are interviewed shortly after sentencing in order that their circumstances may be documented in an Offender History.

Based on the findings of either a Pre-Sentence Report of an Offender History, each offender sentenced to a term of probation is classified to assess risk factors and personal needs. This information assists in determining appropriate supervision levels and program requirements. In addition to meeting directly with offenders, probation officers may establish and maintain a variety of collateral contacts with local police and the probationer's family. Employers, school officials, social workers or mental health professionals may also be contacted, depending on individual circumstances.

Community corrections staff work jointly with probationers to develop specific, action-oriented case plans. Case plans are intended to serve as a framework for case-work intervention. Case plans are reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that the conditions of probation are met, and that new needs are addressed as they are identified. Where appropriate, probationers receive counselling or are referred to a variety of community agencies including forensic services. Where special conditions are part of the probation order, such as restitution or prohibition from owning a firearm, the probation officer ensures compliance.

Probationers who do not comply with the conditions of their probation orders, or who reoffend while on probation, are required to

return to court. They are subject to additional penalties which may include incarceration.

During 1987/88 a total of 6,917 persons, 5,612 males and 1,307 females, were placed on probation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER PROGRAM

The practice of directing offenders to perform services for charitable or non-profit organizations has become increasingly accepted by Alberta's courts. For some offenders and certain offences, community service constitutes a meaningful, non-monetary form of restitution. Completing a designated number of hours to work for non-profit or charitable agencies in the community often provides a maturing experience for offenders, while benefitting the community through the completion of work which might not otherwise be attempted due to limited manpower or financial resources.

During 1986/87 there were 831 referrals to the Community Service Program.

TEMPORARY ABSENCE PROGRAM

The Temporary Absence Program permits carefully selected, minimum security, sentenced inmates to be conditionally pre-released from provincial correctional centres. Those accepted to participate in the program may be released with or without escort for employment, education, treatment or humanitarian reasons.

To be eligible for the Temporary Absence Program, inmates must not pose an undue risk to the community. Selected offenders may be considered for release on temporary absence when they have served one-sixth of their sentence.

Several factors are considered before granting a temporary absence. These include: the absence of risk to the community, a concrete plan of rehabilitation, i.e. attendance at drug treatment programs or school, employment or structured job search, good behaviour while incarcerated, availability of accommodation, support of family or friends, and indicators that the applicant will be able to avoid past problems. Prior to release on temporary absence, community corrections staff conduct community investigations to verify information and ensure the suitability of the release.

Inmates released on the program are required to carry a Temporary Absence Permit with them at all times. The permit lists standard conditions which apply to all inmates participating in the program. Some examples include: to be of good behaviour and to obey the law, to refrain from the use or possession of non-prescription drugs, and to refrain from entering into any agreement or contract without the prior approval of the correctional centre director or community supervisor. Additional conditions such as abstinence from alcohol and attendance at mental health programs may be included on the permit as they relate to individual circumstances.

Any inmate who does not abide by the conditions stated on the Temporary Absence Permit may be suspended from the program and returned to a correctional centre. In some cases, the revocation of the permit or further criminal charges may result.

Offenders participating in the Temporary Absence Program are closely supervised by community corrections staff while in the community. This supervision consists of frequent inquiries with collateral sources such as the police, the offender's family, employer or school officials, and personal contact with offenders, to ensure that the stated conditions of the temporary absence are being met.

The Temporary Absence Program provides eligible inmates with the opportunity to secure or maintain employment, repay debts and continue to support their families, and meet educational and other training or treatment needs. In addition, the program gives employers, educators and other concerned citizens the opportunity to assist with the reintegration of offenders into the community.

The total number of Temporary Absence Permits granted during 1986/87 was 11,254. Less than one percent of offenders released reoffended while on temporary absence.

PAROLE

Parole is a form of conditional release which is granted under the authority of the National Parole Board. Corrections staff prepare comprehensive investigative reports for the National Parole Board when an inmate is eligible or applies for release from a provincial correctional centre. Generally, inmates are eligible for day parole after serving one sixth of their

sentence and are eligible for full parole after serving one third of their sentence. The National Parole Board reviews all available information from the community, correctional centre, police, private agencies and psychiatrists and renders a decision regarding release.

Once released, the parolee is closely supervised by a parole officer. The parole officer meets with the parolee frequently, maintains liaison with local police, family and sponsors of the parolee, and agencies that can assist the parolee integrate into the community. The parole officer assists the offender when required and monitors the parolee's compliance with the conditions of release. Parole officers inform the National Parole Board of any significant changes that occur during the release period.

Offenders who are eligible to be released as a result of earned remission are released on mandatory supervision and are subject to the same conditions as parolees. An offender may have additional special conditions depending on the perceived risk to the community. Dangerous offenders may be retained in custody at the mandatory supervision date and it is the parole officer's responsibility to identify these offenders, prepare investigative reports and refer the case to the National Parole Board for a decision regarding detention.

Conditionally released offenders who do not comply with the conditions of release may be suspended, their parole ultimately revoked by the National Parole Board, and they will be returned to a correctional centre. Parole officers complete reports, recommending revocation or a return to the community. The parole officers assist the suspended parolee to develop new release plans if he is to return to the community.

ALTERNATIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

Introduced in 1988, this program involves the early release of selected offenders on temporary absence or parole on the condition that they attend a variety of day programs in the community designed to address their special needs. The program is unique in that it is funded entirely from resources previously used to support residential beds. This initiative facilitates the release of offenders who lack community support, yet have a variety of special needs which must be addressed in order to enhance the chance of the eventual successful rehabilitation. Its goal is the safe and appropriate release of a recalcitrant offender group who require extensive supervision support. The program involves the cooperation of Correctional Services and contracted private sector agencies in a joint venture. Correctional Services staff identify suitable inmates for the program and provide the supervision and control necessary while the offender is on conditional release. The participating private sector agencies provide a range of day programs designed to meet the needs of offenders, and also enhance these services by enlisting volunteers and general community support.

The types of programs and services available may include impaired drivers programs, addictions programs, life skills, employment readiness training and mental health programs. While on the program, offenders live at home or in an approved community residence and attend the appropriate program during the day, in the evening or in some cases on the weekend. Offenders are subject to strict rules which may include daily reporting to a probation officer, curfew and testing for drugs or alcohol. Failure to comply with the conditions of release result in prompt suspension of the temporary absence and return of the offender to a correctional facility. Participation in the program is voluntary.

One of the benefits of this program is that offenders lacking in community support, who would otherwise not be considered for community release, are provided access to the temporary absence programs. Given the additional services provided to this clientele, a safe and appropriate release is facilitated. The program also generates maximum community commitment and involvement as private sector agencies enlist their resource network to assist and support offenders in a variety of ways.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

Community residential centres provide offenders with a supervised residence in the community to facilitate gradual release. Most centres are operated by charitable or non-profit private associations.

Alberta Correctional Services began its Community Residential Centre Program in 1975 by establishing contracts with three centres. In the first year of operation, 64 beds were available to selected offenders.

In the intervening years, a wide range of specialized community residential centres have developed to meet the needs of clients. Centres now under contract provide a range of services, from basic programs offering bed and board, to specialized treatment programs designed to accommodate residents with drug, alcohol or mental health problems. Some community residential centres are staffed and operated by Native social service agencies. In an effort to develop a normalized environment, a number of cen-

tres have adopted co-correctional programming, accommodating both male and female residents.

In 1987, Alberta Correctional Services maintained contracts with 21 community residential centres for a total of 265 guaranteed beds for both provincial and federal offenders. In addition, offenders were referred to other non-contracted community residential centres such as O'Mera Lodge in Legal, Henwood in Edmonton and the David Lander Centre in Claresholm.

To qualify for admission to a community residential centre, incarcerated offenders must meet the conditions of the Temporary Absence Program. Other sponsored residents may be completing terms of probation or parole, or participating in the Pre-Trial Services Program. All prospective residents are interviewed by the operating agency and the decision to accept or reject applications is theirs alone.

If accepted, residents must complete a formal agreement with the operating agency stating their intention to find or maintain employment, to undertake suitable educational or vocational training, or to participate in a treatment program. Post-release plans are also formalized during the admission process.

Residents must agree to specific rules of conduct while residing at a community residential centre. Most centres require residents to participate in a general counselling program, to complete assigned household chores, to abstain from alcohol or drug use and to abide by specific curfew restrictions.

Demonstrated good behaviour and progress may allow the resident increased privileges. Extended curfew, relaxed visiting regulations, and the opportunity to qualify for a weekend temporary absence pass to visit with family members are privileges designed to ease the resident's transition back into the community.

Centres usually provide residents with individual and group counselling programs and a referral service designed to assist and support release planning. Supervision is conducted in cooperation with a liaison probation officer who maintains close contact with offenders, to ensure compliance with release terms.

The length of stay in a community residential centre is determined both by individual need and the type of program. It may range from a few days to several months if there is sufficient need. In every case, residents are encouraged to develop community resources independent of the centre.

Community residential centres make a valuable contribution in both human and financial terms. Residents are provided with the opportunity to ease their transition back to the community while benefitting from guidance and counselling. Society gains from the supervision and control of the residents' activities while in the program, and Correctional Services benefits from the decreased costs of incarceration.

CORRECTIONAL CENTRE VISITATION PROGRAM

In response to concern about an increasing number of youthful offenders, Alberta Correctional Services initiated the Correctional Centre Visitation Program in 1976. The program, which is organized jointly by community corrections and correctional centre staff, offers probationers and youth who are exhibiting unlawful behaviour the opportunity to participate in a tour of an adult correctional facility. In 1986/87, close to 1,000 persons participated in the program.

The tours emphasize the loss of freedom and choice, the loss of individuality, and other realities associated with incarceration. Uncensored dialogue is permitted between inmates and those taking the tour to facilitate meaningful communication. Frequently, inmates are heard to tell the visitors to "straighten out before it's too late".

For some, the tour has minimal impact until the moment when they enter an empty cell and hear the sound of a metal door closing behind them. Minutes spent in solitary confinement provide even the most hardened with an opportunity to reflect on what they have seen and heard during the tour.

The tours are offered at the Fort Saskatchewan, Peace River, Grande Cache, Calgary and Lethbridge Correctional Centres.

ASSISTANT PROBATION OFFICER PROGRAM

The Assistant Probation Officer Program was introduced in 1978, in an attempt to bring community corrections programs to remote regions of Alberta. The program involves local citizens performing duties normally the responsibility of a probation officer, in areas which are not easily accessible to the staff of an established community corrections office.

By recruiting and training community members, Correctional Services is able to offer offenders the assistance of individuals who are familiar with local resources and community conditions. Assistant probation officers maintain regular contact with supervising probation officers and assume similar responsibility to professional staff, but usually supervise fewer offenders.

The primary function of assistant probation officers is to provide supervision to persons on probation. Some assistant probation officers also assume responsibility for the

administration of the Fine Option Program in the community, including coordinating client intake from court, finding work placements and supervising assignments.

Many assistant probation officers are Natives who provide community corrections services on their home reserves. They may also assist with translation in Native languages. The Assistant Probation Officer Program offers participants the opportunity for work experience while simultaneously providing a necessary community service. During 1987 there were an average of 15 assistant probation officers working in various remote locations throughout Alberta.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In the late 1970s Alberta Correctional Services formally established volunteer programs and embarked on a province-wide recruitment drive to attract volunteers to roles in corrections. Today, volunteers play a significant role within Alberta Correctional Services, both in correctional centres and in community corrections offices.

Close to 1,000 volunteers have been recruited and trained to work in Alberta Correctional Services. Just over half of this number are engaged in correctional centres; the others work in community corrections offices.

A number of community agencies and groups also sponsor volunteers who provide services to the offender population. These agencies include the Salvation Army, Alcoholics Anonymous, Native Counselling Services of Alberta, the Seventh Step Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society, the John Howard Society and many other local groups and agencies.

Persons who choose to become volunteers are screened before they are accepted. They receive both formal and on-the-job training in preparation for their responsibilities. A contractual agreement, signed by the volunteer and the volunteer's immediate supervisor, ensures that responsibilities, hours of service and reporting lines are clearly defined. Volunteers must initially make a six month commitment, which most extend to a full year or more. Many volunteers have five or more years of continuous service to their credit.

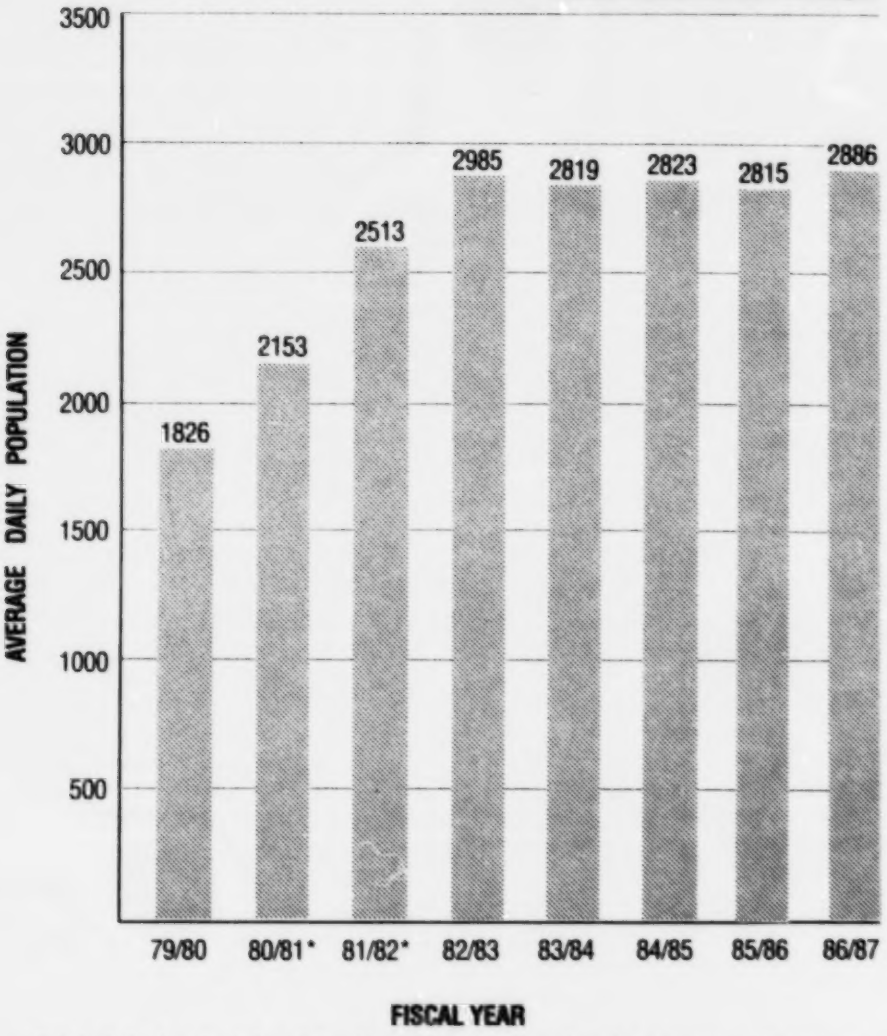
Volunteers perform varied tasks. In community corrections offices they are usually involved in providing supervision to probationers or offenders participating in other programs such as fine option or community service. They may also provide special services such as court liaison, clerical assistance or language translation. In correctional centres, volunteers may work as assistant caseworkers, tutors, recreation assistants, counsellors, library assistants or art and crafts instructors. They may also assist staff in offering group programs in areas such as job skills or job search techniques, self-help or addictions counselling. Some volunteers become highly specialized and skilled, as in the case of those who work with mentally disturbed offenders or those convicted of violent crimes.

The commitment and involvement of volunteers ensures the direct and current involvement of law-abiding citizens in corrections practice, and serves as a signal to offenders that a successful release and reintegration with the community is possible.

THE ADULT INMATE POPULATION

During the period from 1979/80 to 1986/87, the average daily population in Alberta's correctional centres increased by 58.1 %, from 1,826 in 1979/80 to 2,886 in 1986/87.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION IN ADULT CORRECTIONAL CENTRES
FISCAL YEARS 1980/81 - 1986/87



Data includes inmates in hospital, out to court, in transit, on day release temporary absence programs or serving intermittent sentences.

* These figures exclude inmates in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.

FACILITIES FOR ADULT OFFENDERS

Alberta Correctional Services operates 12 adult correctional centres. These facilities provide a range of programs and functions.

Adult correctional centres are classified in three categories:

- remand centres accommodate persons awaiting court appearance or trial;
- multi-purpose correctional centres offer comprehensive program opportunities for offenders serving a sentence, including minimum security camp programs;
- community correctional centres provide community release programs to assist inmates with community reintegration.

EDMONTON REMAND CENTRE

The Edmonton Remand Centre accommodates accused persons awaiting court appearance or trial, convicted persons prior to sentencing, sentenced persons either awaiting transfer to federal or provincial centres or with charges pending, federal sentenced inmates awaiting appeal hearings, parole and Temporary Absence Permit violators, and persons being detained by the police or immigration authorities. One of the functions of the centre is to screen federal inmates serving sentences between two and ten years for participation in the federal/provincial Exchange of Services Agreement. Inmates accepted under this program serve their sentences in provincial correctional facilities. Inmates incarcerated for failure to pay fines are eligible to participate in the Fine Option Program and inmates serving sentences of thirty days and less are assessed for release on the Temporary Absence Program.

The centre is a modern, high-rise facility which features electronic security control systems. Remote control operated doors, elevators and closed-circuit television cameras aid in the control of inmate movement. A central control station monitors these security systems, as well as the movement of vehicles, personnel and visitors in and out of the building. The centre is connected with the Edmonton City Police Headquarters, the John E. Brownlee Building, Queen's Bench and Provincial Court buildings by a series of tunnels in order to facilitate secure, controlled movement of inmates from the time they are arrested until they are sentenced and transferred or released.

The living units of the centre are designed for the security and program requirements of different inmate populations. Various units accommodate populations of 56, 48, 24, and 12 inmates in individual rooms. Two 18 bed dormitories are located adjacent to the centre's admission/discharge area to accommodate recently arrested persons awaiting court appearance on the following court date. In addition, a 12-bed medical/mental health unit is available to ensure close supervision and individual treatment of inmates.

Upon admission, all inmates are interviewed by classification staff in order to determine individual program needs and security requirements. If they are convicted and sentenced to a period of incarceration, a further classification interview is conducted to identify the correctional centre program best suited to meet their needs.

A variety of other programs and services are offered. Health care services, including medical and mental health examinations, are available 24 hours a day. A physician, a dentist and a psychiatrist visit the centre several times each week to provide treatment to inmates requiring their services. Psychologi-

cal assessment and treatment services are offered on an ongoing basis, and inmates who require these services may by housed in specialized units.

All inmates are offered opportunities for recreation in an open-air exercise area or in a fully equipped gymnasium. Religious services are provided. Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplains are available daily for spiritual counselling and chapel services. Native counsellors and Native court workers are available to meet the needs of the Native population. Visiting areas are designed for secure (glass), open (contact) and professional visits. Inmates are given the opportunity to begin educational upgrading by enrolling in correspondence courses. Teachers from Alberta Vocational College are available to tutor inmates and provide educational/vocational counselling. Addictions programs, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and information about numerous treatment centres are offered to inmates. A variety of community agencies such as the Legal Aid Society, the John Howard Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society as well as centre sponsored and trained volunteers provide further support and services to inmates.

FACTS

Opened: 1979 Classification: Remand Centre

Bed Capacity:* 560 male, 36 female Average Daily Inmate Population: 379**

*** As of September 30, 1987.**

**** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

FORT SASKATCHEWAN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre provides medium and minimum security sentenced offenders with a wide range of program options designed to facilitate the assumption of a useful, law-abiding life upon return to the community. Inmates are expected and encouraged to participate in the opportunities offered and to conduct themselves in a productive, responsive manner.

The oldest correctional facility still in use in Alberta, the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre was opened in 1914.

A separate facility for female inmates was added to the site in 1918. Both male and female facilities were renovated and expanded between 1929 and 1931. To provide increased administrative medical and program space, an annex was attached to the male facility in 1961. Vocational shops and recreational facilities have been added in more recent years.

Co-correctional programming was introduced at the centre in 1974, providing for the equal access of male and female inmates to all programs and services. When started, co-correctional programs were limited to religious and social events, but by the early 1980s all programs were fully co-correctional.

Effective July 1, 1988, the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre operation will move to a new facility located approximately two miles east of the present site. The new site consists of several buildings clustered within an open campus environment and surrounded by an electronically controlled wall. The main focal point of the new centre is the cen-

tral activities building which is linked by pedestrian walkways with all living units and other components of the centre. Inmates are housed in seven living units, each accommodating up to 48 residents.

The centre, which allows inmates to move freely on the grounds while necessary security is maintained, provides a variety of educational, vocational, work, recreational and mental health programs.

The centre's academic program administered by Alberta Vocational Centre, places particular emphasis on the basic subjects of mathematics, language arts and social studies, but other programs such as hairstyling and business education are also offered. All educational programs are provided in a modular format which permits inmates to progress at a pace suited to their abilities. Many inmates complete the General Educational Development (GED) exams while incarcerated, and apprenticeship entry examinations are also conducted at the centre's school. Inmates may enroll in self-study and correspondence courses and receive assistance, as required, from qualified instructors.

Vocational programs are co-sponsored by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Keyano College. Available courses include carpentry, industrial/construction training and autobody repair. Other programs are addictions counselling and a four week life management skills course, co-sponsored by Grant MacEwan College and the Alberta Vocational Centre.

In addition to the above programs, the centre provides an industries program which involves the production of a variety of wood and upholstery products. The tending of a large vegetable crop, the preparation and freezing of a variety of food products and their distribution to other centres in the province are also key programs at the new facility.

The intent of these programs is to provide inmates with marketable job skills to facilitate community reintegration. The industry program involves offenders in both educational and job skills training, and allows offenders to commence a certified program of study which may be further pursued at a community college upon release.

Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre also operates a Forensic Assessment and Treatment Unit which offers assistance to inmates with mental health disorders. The program is staffed by psychologists, correctional service workers and registered nurses. A visiting psychologist from Forensic Assessment and Community Services (FACS) and psychiatrists from Alberta Hospital, Edmonton provide support services. The program is housed in the Special Services Unit and accommodates 26 inmates. It operates on a therapeutic community model with group therapy as the principle activity. Participating inmates may also enroll in life skills training, educational programs, or be assigned to project work crews. Those requiring more intensive or long term treatment may be referred to the Alberta Hospital, Edmonton's Forensic Unit.

Community agencies provide a variety of services to all inmates at the centre. Native Counselling of Alberta (NCSA) provides two on-site full-time staff to meet the specialized need of Native inmates. Two chaplains deliver spiritual counselling services. Other agencies such as the Elizabeth Fry Society, Seventh Step Society, John Howard Society, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Poundmaker's Lodge, FACS and Legal Aid maintain on-site and after care services. In addition to the above noted agencies, an average of 110 volunteers provide regular assistance to staff and inmates at the centre on a monthly basis. The National Parole

FACTS

Opened: 1914 (old facility) 1988 (new facility)

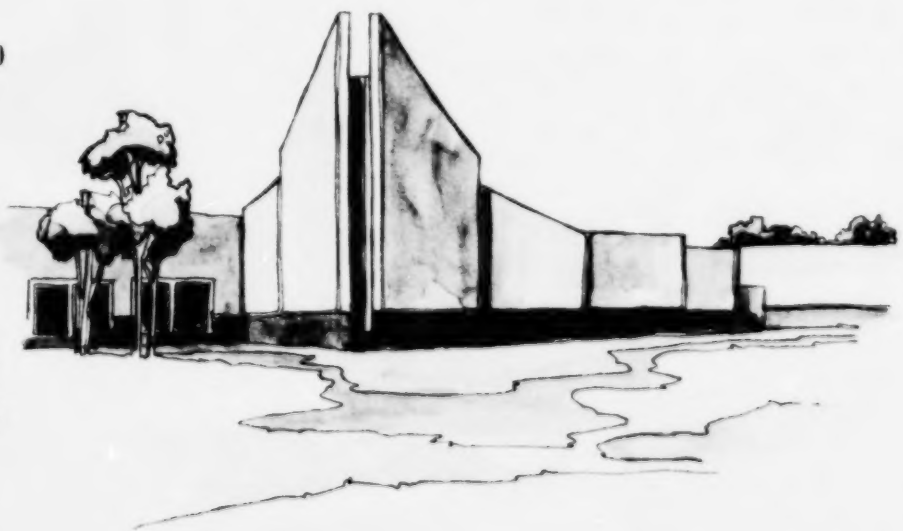
Classification: Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre

Bed Capacity:* 427 male, 56 female (old facility)
266 male, 96 female (new facility)

Average Daily Inmate Population:** 330

* As of September 30, 1987.

** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.



Board conduct release hearings monthly.

In addition to the regular co-correctional program, female offenders may access programs offered exclusively to women such as addictions programs, a personal development program and others. The facility also offers a unique Living With Children program which is accessible to both male and female offenders and which provides training in child development and parenting. Participants receive practical experience in child care by assisting in taking care of children during visiting hours. A fully equipped apartment is also available on-site which enables qualified inmates to maintain close contact with family and friends during visiting periods extending up to 72 hours.

BELMONT CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Belmont Correctional Centre is a minimum security facility where the majority of inmates are granted day release for the purpose of employment, education, addictions counselling and other community based pursuits. Both male and female inmates are housed at this centre. The facility also accommodates offenders serving intermittent sentences.

The centre was opened in 1954 to provide an alcohol rehabilitation program. In 1971, Belmont's purpose was changed to that of a community correctional centre where inmates participated in a mix of in-house and community based programs. Today, the emphasis is on inmate day release under the terms of the Temporary Absence Program or National Parole. This has necessitated a shift toward greater utilization of community resources and services to meet the individual needs of inmates.

Belmont Correctional Centre operates under the living unit management model which provides a framework for considerable direct interaction between the living unit officers and inmates. Security and supervision systems rely primarily on staff observation and direct involvement with inmates. Conventional security hardware is at a minimum. Inmates are carefully screened and classified prior to acceptance, and admission is restricted to those with minimum security status who have been granted or are awaiting release to the community.

Approximately 50% of the inmates admitted to Belmont Correctional Centre have been transferred from the Edmonton Remand Centre. The remaining admissions are from various correctional centres in the province, primarily from the north region. All inmates admitted to the centre, with the exception of those transferred from Edmonton Remand Centre have been approved in advance to participate in the Temporary Absence Program or Parole Program. Inmates not in receipt of day release on admission are typically assigned to such work areas as the inmate library, kitchen, stores or to a special project work crew which performs work in the community. Inmates participate in these assignments until they become eligible for day release into the community.

The centre's community work program provides service to local citizens and neighbouring communities. Crews work on a variety of projects such as snow removal and yard maintenance for senior citizens. The goal of the community work program is to provide inmates with useful work and a sense of civic responsibility.

The centre sponsors an active volunteer program involving both agency and community volunteers. Alcoholics Anonymous and the Elizabeth Fry Society regularly attend

FACTS

Opened: 1954 **Classification: Community Correctional Centre**

Bed Capacity: *171 male, 25 female **Average Daily Population:** 122**

* **As of September 30, 1987.**

** **Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

the centre. Volunteers supervise group outings, assist with casework and help deliver correctional programs. In addition to the volunteer program, an evening school program is available to those inmates who wish to take academic upgrading and receive tutoring services. An on-site health service is also available.

PEACE RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Peace River Correctional Centre accommodates sentenced male inmates from northern Alberta communities and those transferred from other correctional facilities throughout the province. The centre also serves northern Alberta by providing a holding capacity for male remands and immigration detainees.

Security is enhanced by building design and function. Closed circuit television cameras scan both exterior and selected interior areas. A central control area monitors the sally ports which border security areas, and provides supervision of inmate movement.

Inmate accommodation is divided into six separate living units which are designed to reward responsible behaviour as inmates progress through their terms of incarceration. An orientation and assessment unit is used to accommodate new admissions as they are introduced to the centre's programs. Designed around four traditional ranges, each with 12 cells, this unit may also be used to provide a place of secure confinement for persons remanded by local courts. Three larger units provide accommodation for the centre's general inmate population. One is a living unit dormitory setting with 34 beds. The second large unit features open cubicles with 48 beds and writing desks. The third unit is a 22 bed dormitory. Other smaller units accommodate protective custody inmates and the inmate workers who staff the kitchen, bakery and butcher shops.

All inmates, with the exception of those in orientation and assessment, segregation or protective custody units, may participate in common programs and activities. The centre's design allows for the controlled movement of inmates between living units and program areas, and for general association in a central dining room during meal times. Opportunities for recreation in the gymnasium, library or hobby shop are available to all inmates on a scheduled basis.

Education programs are provided by Fairview College. Inmates may complete educational programs at all levels, from grade one up to and including high school graduation.

A vocational training workshop facilitates both pre-employment and apprenticeship instruction in autobody repair, carpentry, small engine repair, welding and Native craft industries. The pre-employment vocational instruction allows inmates to accumulate up to 220 hours of training and experience which may be credited toward apprenticeship upon release. The apprenticeship instruction allows inmates to challenge the first year apprenticeship examination. Instruction is also offered in other areas; a course in fur trapping is a popular choice.

Those not involved in educational or vocational programs may find employment on inmate crews which perform community service in the Town of Peace River and the neighbouring Town of Grimshaw. Inmates may also work on a large vegetable garden which supplies fresh produce for use in the centre's kitchen.

A full range of health care service is provided. Mental health services are offered by a full-time psychologist who conducts individual assessments and offers a group therapy program. Nursing staff provide mental

FACTS

Opened: 1968

Classification: Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre

Bed Capacity:* 175 male

Average Daily Inmate Population:** 119

* As of September 30, 1987

** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.

health support services and offer continuing medical care.

Native Counselling Services of Alberta assists with Native program delivery. Other visiting agencies include the John Howard Society and Alcoholics Anonymous. Community volunteers assist staff with tutoring and provide a variety of other services.

GRANDE CACHE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Grande Cache Correctional Centre is located on the eastern slope of the Canadian Rockies in the community of Grande Cache. The centre was officially opened in July, 1985. Situated on a quarter section of land, the facility consists of interconnected buildings which provide spacious administration, program and residential areas.

The centre is designed to accommodate medium security male inmates. Most of the inmate population is sentenced, but persons remanded by local courts may be held at the centre as well. Female remands may be accommodated in a four bed remand unit.

The centre's ten principal living units are based on a split-level concept and are identical in appearance and function. The living unit design facilitates interaction between staff and inmates in spacious common areas during those times when the inmates are not involved in program activities. All accommodation is based on single occupancy of rooms within the living units; each unit provides space for 20 inmates. This is a significant design feature which maximizes staff control and supervision. The centre also provides a special handling unit with 20 beds, a remand unit with 16 beds for males, four for females and a segregation unit with 10 beds.

Most inmates gather in a central dining room during meal times, but inmates in remand, special handling and segregation units receive food service. Other services include a health care station with a four bed infirmary, a chapel, a gymnasium, a hobby craft room and a library. In addition, the centre's grounds provide space for gardens and outdoor recreation within a secure compound surrounded by a double security fence.

Program space includes educational/vocational, industrial and service facilities. Inmates at the centre may find employment in industries such as woodworking, sign painting, upholstery, small engine and appliance repair shops. These programs provide opportunities for practical work experience.

The centre is equipped with a sophisticated perimeter intrusion alarm system and closed circuit television cameras which monitor selected interior and exterior views. These advanced systems provide a level of security which allows inmates the opportunity for relatively free movement within common activity areas. The centre's location provides additional security, as the nearest large community, Hinton, is accessible only by one highway.

The majority of the centre's inmates have been transferred from other correctional centres throughout the province. Later in their sentences, when they may qualify for community release under the conditions of the Temporary Absence Program, they are returned to correctional facilities nearer their home communities. Inmates are not released from the centre to the local community, unless they resided in Grande Cache or the surrounding area prior to their incarceration.

FACTS

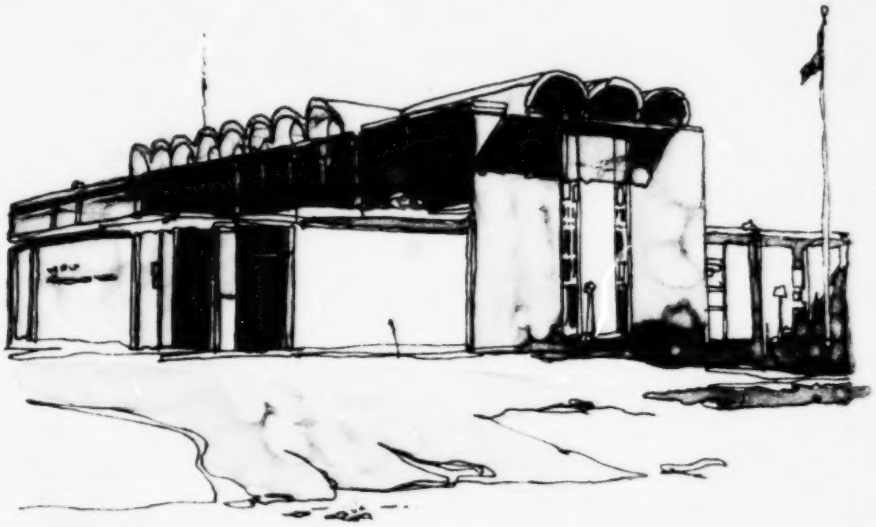
Opened: 1985 **Classification: Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre**

Bed Capacity:* 287 male, 4 female **Average Daily Inmate Population:** 188**

*** As of September 30, 1987.**

**** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

ST. PAUL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE



The St. Paul Correctional Centre is a minimum security, adult male facility dedicated to the reintegration of inmates into the community through the use of the living unit management model. The facility tends to accommodate the younger adult offender, often experiencing his first period of incarceration.

Small dormitories, ranging in size from three to 12 beds, accommodate a sentenced inmate population of 67. Offenders are screened prior to transfer to this facility to ensure that they are suitable for the relatively open environment offered.

An additional 12 bed remand unit provides the centre's most secure accommodation. The unit is used as a short term medium security holding facility for persons remanded into custody by the local courts. This area also meets the administrative and disciplinary segregation needs of the centre.

The centre has three main programs. Inmates are deployed either on community work crews, in institutional maintenance, or they are enrolled in educational or vocational courses until they are eligible for the Temporary Absence Program.

Inmate work crews from the centre have created public cross country ski trails and assisted in the renovations of many community facilities. A variety of other services are provided to the town's handicapped and senior citizens through a program run in conjunction with the local social services department. Centre maintenance consists of assignment to duties in the kitchen, laundry, library, recreation, grounds keeping or janitorial functions.

The centre's educational program is provided in a fully equipped, versatile shop space in a building adjacent to the main centre.

The program is administered by a consortium whose Board of Directors is composed of Lakeland College, AVC Lac La Biche, St. Paul Correctional Centre, Advanced Education and the Department of the Solicitor General's representatives as well as the Consortium Coordinator.

Offenders may choose from three course streams. The Living and Work Program offers an individual skills and interest assessment, career planning, basic employment skills and a value component; academic upgrading includes basic math, basic reading, and basic language skills; exploring trades offers an introduction to masonry, electronics, small appliance repair, drafting, furnace maintenance, first aid, concrete, electricity, blue print reading and painting.

Lakeland College offers the LEARN (Literacy Education and Reading Network) Program to inmates at the centre. The program consists of one on one tutoring by volunteers to improve reading and writing skills. In addition to the remedial mathematics courses which may accompany vocational training, correspondence courses are available for inmates requiring academic upgrading in other subjects.

The regular involvement of volunteers and community sports leagues and the use of the centre's recreational facilities by community members serve to reduce the stigma commonly attached to inmates and correctional centres.

A minimum security forestry camp is maintained in Fort McMurray. This camp has the capacity to hold 20 regular inmates as well as an additional ten intermittent inmates.

FACTS

Opened: 1980 **Classification:** Community Correctional Centre

Bed Capacity:* 109 male **Average Daily Inmate Population:**** 57

* As of September 30, 1987.

** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.

RED DEER REMAND CENTRE

The Red Deer Remand Centre was officially opened on August 21, 1987.

The centre is a multi-purpose correctional facility located adjacent to the courthouse in downtown Red Deer. The main floor of the centre contains a minimum security living unit that can accommodate up to 20 male and female adult offenders. Persons assigned to this living unit are serving short and intermittent sentences and are often involved in the Fine Option Program.

The second floor of the centre provides secure custody for up to 64 male and female adult offenders. Offenders housed in this portion of the centre are awaiting initial court appearance and trial or awaiting sentencing and transfer to other facilities after sentencing is completed. Parole violators and those held under the Immigration Act are also assigned to this living area.

The third floor of the centre is a living unit for up to 12 male and female young offenders awaiting court appearance or trial. This living unit is a separate facility from the adult areas of the centre.

Upon admission, offenders are interviewed to determine suitable placement within the centre. Each offender is given a medical examination to identify potential physical and mental health problems including screening for communicable diseases. Staff at the centre also provide assessment and classification services for those considered for transfer to other provincial or federal correctional facilities.

Offenders admitted to the centre who cannot pay fines can be accommodated by the Fine Option Program and work at assigned areas within the centre to satisfy the outstanding amount owing on the fine.

The centre provides recreational facilities for all offenders including a gymnasium and multi-purpose recreational rooms. Weightlifting, table games and organized sports are all part of the recreation schedule.

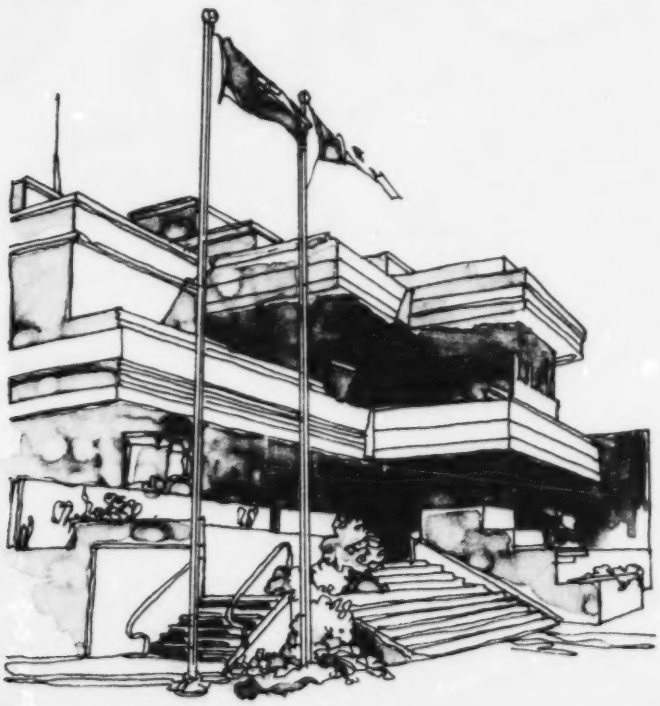
Library services also provide an assortment of reading material for adult and young offenders.

Chaplaincy services are provided by Protestant and Roman Catholic personnel who provide assistance in counselling, guidance and religious services in the centre chapel.

Due to the short stay of most offenders at this facility, service demands are not as extensive as at other centres. Staff may, as necessary, provide basic casework, process temporary absence applications, and also facilitate the delivery of Legal Aid services, Alcoholics Anonymous programs, Native programs, as well as provide liaison with follow-up services in the community.

The Volunteer Program is an integral part of the overall provision at the centre. Selected volunteers provide assistance to staff in areas of library service, recreation, hobbycraft, casework and counselling.

The centre provides secure visiting for offenders on a daily basis. Open visiting is permitted for minimum security offenders on weekends only. The shift manager can approve open visiting at his/her discretion in the security area of the centre. Young offenders receive open visits daily with members of the immediate families. Interview rooms for professional visits from lawyers, police and social workers are provided to ensure confidentiality and privacy.



FACTS

Opened: 1987 **Classification:** Remand Centre

Bed Capacity:* 76 male, 14 female **Average Daily Inmate Population:**** 12

* As of September 30, 1987.

** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.

CALGARY REMAND CENTRE

Located in Calgary's downtown core, the Calgary Remand Centre was opened in 1974 as part of a criminal justice complex which includes a central police station and the provincial courts.

The centre is a modern eight story facility which accommodates both male and female prisoners. Those held at the centre include persons in detention prior to initial court appearance, remanded prisoners awaiting trial or sentencing, those whose sentence is under appeal, federal parole and Temporary Absence Program violators and other persons detained by police and immigration authorities.

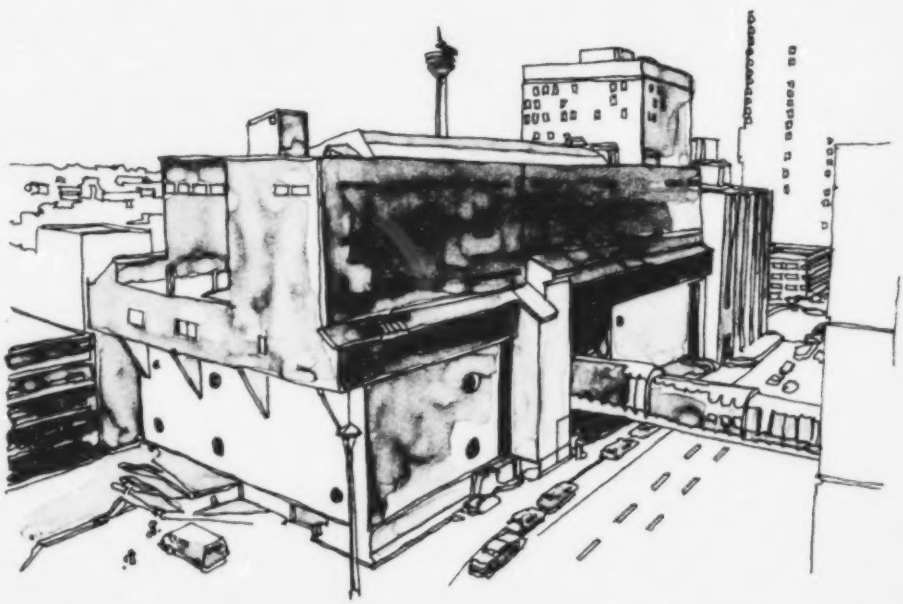
Most of the centre's population are persons detained by the Calgary City Police. Once they have been identified and formally charged, they are placed in the Calgary Remand Centre's detention area. Upon admission, all prisoners receive a medical examination to identify communicable disease and to establish a medical history. Each prisoner then receives a classification interview to determine suitable placement within the centre.

Prisoners committed by the courts are transferred directly to the centre's remand area. Although the centre's security level is maximum, internal classification provides placement alternatives. Accordingly, the remand area accommodates males in a variety of settings which range from dormitories to individual cells. Remanded females and those in detention are held separately.

Once their court date arrives, remanded prisoners are escorted by correctional officers to holding areas adjacent to provincial courtrooms. As the Provincial Court is located within the same structure as the remand centre, prisoners may be transferred between the remand setting and the courtroom without leaving internal security areas. Prisoners required to appear at the Court of Queen's Bench are escorted out of the centre.

While at the Calgary Remand Centre, prisoners have access to a variety of programs and services. Some may enroll in educational courses under the supervision of teaching staff provided by the Alberta Vocational Centre. Special remedial assistance is provided in the subjects of math and language arts. A variety of correspondence courses, including Athabasca University courses, are also available. Recreation programs, consisting of group and individual activities, are available in the indoor/outdoor exercise area. Library services and a hobby program are also provided throughout the week.

Medical services are always available. Nurses provide around the clock coverage and a medical doctor is in attendance three days per week. Mental health services are provided by a full-time psychologist and a visiting psychiatrist who attend the centre two days per week. A variety of religious programs such as chapel service, Bible courses and spiritual counselling are available on a continual basis. In addition, staff and volunteers from a number of service agencies such as Native Counselling Services of Alberta, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Elizabeth Fry Society, John Howard Society and Man to Man visit the centre to offer various programs. Many of these agencies also provide follow-up services in the community.



FACTS

Opened: 1974 Classification: Remand Centre

Bed Capacity:* 342 male, 42 female Average Daily Inmate Count: 294**

* **As of September 30, 1987;**

** **Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

CALGARY CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Calgary Correctional Centre was officially opened in 1958. In recent years, the centre's original design has been adjusted to provide additional space for inmate accommodation and programs.

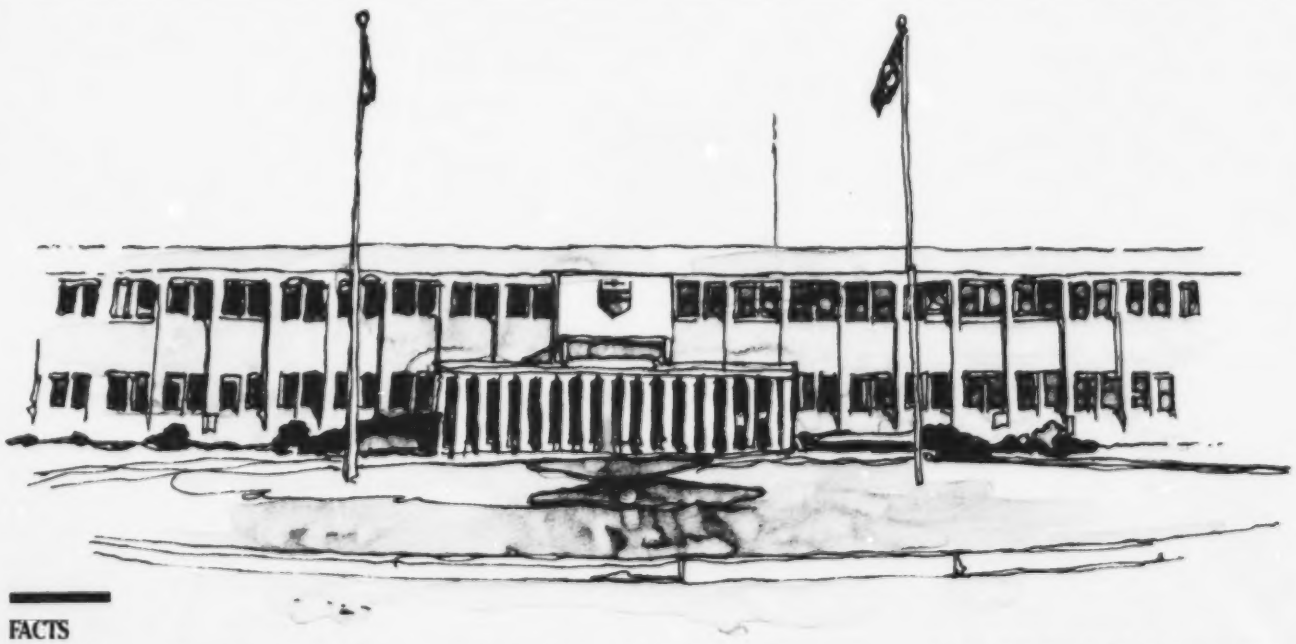
Most of the centre's male inmate population are transferred from the Calgary Remand Centre upon sentencing. Upon arrival they receive a formal orientation and a comprehensive assessment, which reviews their offence history, individual needs and other factors. From this interview, a case plan and security rating are developed for each inmate. The centre operates three living units providing dormitory type accommodation and one living unit with a semi-private room setting. Other units include a cell range which accommodates protective custody inmates separate from inmates assigned to regular work and education programs. Most minimum security inmates are accommodated in the North Annex, which provides a relatively open environment.

Offenders with mental health disorders are accommodated in a special unit operating as a therapeutic community under the supervision of the centre's psychologist. This unit is staffed by specially trained correctional officers, caseworkers and a registered psychiatric nurse. A contracted psychiatrist provides consultation on a part-time basis.

An educational consortium of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, the Mount Royal Community College, and the Alberta Vocational Centre provide a variety of upgrading programs. Vocational skills courses include welding, carpentry, small engines and basic automotives, and building maintenance. Inmates may also work on a large vegetable garden which provides fresh produce for use in the centre's kitchen.

Chaplains from the Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic Church visit the centre daily. Recreational programs include physical activities such as basketball, floor hockey, volleyball and weight training in the centre's gymnasium. Library services, arts and crafts and hobby programs are also available.

Several community agencies provide inmates with counselling, program and release support. A Native counsellor is available to assist in the delivery of the Native Brotherhood program. Various religious groups provide music, discussion group and Bible study programs. The Foothills Chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at the centre three times a week. The Seventh Step Society sponsors a self-help therapy group at the centre and assists inmates on release.



FACTS

Opened: 1958 **Classification: Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre** **Bed Capacity:* 477 male** **Average Daily Inmate Population:** 334**

* **As of September 30, 1987.**

** **Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

BOW RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

FACTS

Opened: 1981 Classification: Community Correctional Centre Bed Capacity:* 80 male, 16 female Average Daily Inmate Population: N/A**

*** As of September 30, 1987. ** Facility to reopen April 1, 1988.**

The Bow River Correctional Centre is a community correctional centre providing community based programs for male and female inmates.

The centre was opened in 1981 and functioned as a community correctional centre until 1985 when it was temporarily designated the secure custody young offender centre for southern Alberta. In April 1988 the centre reopened as a community correctional centre. Today, the centre houses 18 female and 88 male minimum security inmates. Most of the inmates in the centre are released daily on the Temporary Absence or Parole Program. The centre accepts short term minimum security inmates directly from the Calgary Remand Centre. Longer term federal and provincial inmates are transferred to the centre when they become eligible for temporary absence or day parole.

An emphasis is placed on community based programming. Inmates may attend life skill, pre-employment programs, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and other programs in the community. Any type of day program available in the community is considered an option for inmates at the centre.

Security and supervision systems at Bow River Correctional Centre rely primarily on staff observation and direct involvement with inmates. Conventional security hardware is at a minimum. Inmates are carefully screened and classified prior to acceptance and admission is restricted to those with minimum security status.

A majority of inmates at the centre are employed in the community or actively seeking employment. Those who require basic job skills are referred to non-profit organizations in the community to complete volunteer work. Inmates work under the direct supervision of the agency, and provide a service to the community while learning the routines involved in full-time employment.

The centre also offers a community service crew to complete projects that may not otherwise be performed. Projects such as snow removal and yard maintenance for senior citizens are prime examples. The goal of the community work program is to provide inmates with useful work and a sense of civic responsibility.

The centre has been co-correctional since it opened. The mix of male and female inmates contributes to a normalized environment.

The centre has an active volunteer program. Agencies such as Alcoholics Anonymous, the Elizabeth Fry Society and various religious groups regularly attend the centre. The centre also uses a one on one volunteer system in a number of areas.

LETHBRIDGE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Lethbridge Correctional Centre is a multi-purpose facility which accommodates both male and female remand and sentenced inmates at all security levels. The centre's modern design offers a variety of placement alternatives which encourage direct association between staff and inmates.

Academic, vocational and personal development programs are provided by Lethbridge Community College. Programs are in operation throughout the year and are co-correctional, offering equal opportunity to male and female inmates.

Academic opportunities include educational upgrading leading to high school completion. Many inmates take advantage of the school program to prepare to write the General Education Development (GED) exam. Other programs address subjects such as life skills, stress management, financial management and job search skills. The programs are integrated to provide a sound basis for return to the community.

The centre's vocational program provides both theoretical and practical training in pre-apprenticeship courses which include carpentry, motor mechanics, masonry, drafting and small appliance repair. All courses are offered in modular format to allow inmates to join programs at any stage and to maximize the variety of subjects offered.

Many other programs are offered as well. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at the centre three times weekly. Inmates also have access to the services of a full-time psychologist who works on a one to one basis and occasionally conducts group sessions. A contracted psychiatrist visits the centre once a week. Two full-time chaplains are available for spiritual counselling and assistance. They also sponsor a weekly fellowship supper meeting for sentenced inmates, as well as occasional full day retreat programs.

A full-time Native Liaison Officer assists inmates by providing referrals to Native resource agencies in the community. Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood meetings are held regularly, often featuring guest speakers and special events.

The centre's recreational areas include a large gymnasium, a weight training room, a hobby room and security controlled exercise yards. A fenced sports field located outside the security perimeter is available for use by minimum and medium security inmates.

Some minimum security inmates participate in the community work program. The program includes activities such as firewood collection for non-profit groups who sell the wood to support community programs. Other inmates may work on a large vegetable farm which provides fresh produce for use in the centre's kitchen.

Community volunteers provide a variety of other services. Of particular note is the Medicine Hat Group which consist of concerned citizens who make contact with inmates prior to release to assist them with release planning. The John Howard Society sponsors a weekly self-help group which also prepares inmates for release. Other volunteers assist with casework and general service delivery.

The Lakeside Unit is a day release facility attached to the main centre. It accommodates up to 50 inmates (42 males, 8 females) who work or attend school in the community during the day, and return to the unit during the evening. A 20 bed minimum security camp operated by Native counselling Services of Alberta also operates as a satellite to the centre.

FACTS

Opened: 1983 Classification: Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre

Bed Capacity:* 284 male and 30 female Average Daily Inmate Population: 243**

*** As of September 30, 1987.**

**** Based on 1986/87 fiscal year statistics, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

MEDICINE HAT REMAND CENTRE

The Medicine Hat Remand Centre is a modern correctional facility which was officially opened on June 16, 1987. It is situated adjacent to the Medicine Hat Police Station and near local court facilities. The centre's catchment area is defined by the United States border to the south, the Saskatchewan border to the east, and the municipalities of Hanna and Brooks to the north and west.

The facility was the recipient of an architectural award for design. The building is equipped with advanced computerized security devices and electronics surveillance systems.

The inmate population includes adult males and women with sentenced, detention and remand status. Intermittent servers and federal parole violators may also be housed in this facility. Separate accommodation exists for male and female young offenders placed in temporary detention or short-term secure custody by the Youth Court. Detoxification facilities are also available for both adult and young offenders.

The centre is designed and constructed to accommodate both adult and young offenders in separate sections of the building. Longer term remanded and sentenced offenders are accommodated at correctional facilities in Lethbridge and Calgary.

The lower floor of the building facility contains admission/discharge areas for adult male offenders and an area dedicated to the delivery of pre-admission holding procedures necessary to police routine. The Medicine Hat Police complete their identification procedures and formally charge offenders at this area. This unique concept is a good example of cooperation between provincial and municipal governments to reduce costs and improve efficiency of operation in the criminal justice system. Secure access is provided from the admission/discharge area to the young offender unit on the main floor and to main and second floor adult offender accommodations.

The centre's main floor consists of a minimum security living unit for adult male and female offenders participating in day release temporary absence programs or serving intermittent sentences. Other main floor facilities include administration and program space, health care stations, recreation rooms, and a kitchen. Minimum security inmates have access to a common dining area on the main floor. Other adult inmates and young offenders receive meal service through food delivery.

Located in an adjacent wing on the main floor is the young offenders' unit. This unit allows the department to expand the range of accommodation available to accused young people from the Medicine Hat area. All new admits are housed in individual rooms designated in either the male or female areas. Offenders undergoing detoxification are placed in an appropriate wet cell. Youth workers and correctional staff apply the living unit concept in the supervision and case management of young offenders.

The Medicine Hat Remand Centre was the first provincial correctional centre to accommodate both adult and young offenders. The Young Offenders Act specifies that young persons (ages 12 to 18) must be held separate and apart from adult offenders. The centre is designed to accomplish this objective through the use of the dedicated unit, complete with separate visiting areas, admission/discharge facilities, recreation, crafts, education and outdoor exercise areas. Adult and young offenders within the centre are never in contact.

The second floor consists of living units for

FACTS

Opened: 1987 **Classification: Remand Centre**

Bed Capacity:* 52 male and 12 female **Average Daily Inmate Population:** 15**

*** As of September 30, 1987**

**** Based on statistics from August 1 to November 30, 1987, this figure excludes inmates at minimum security camps, on full release temporary absence programs, in hospital, out to court, in transit or serving intermittent sentences.**

adult male and female offenders who have been remanded by the courts, as well as segregation, detention and visiting areas. Public visiting is accommodated on this floor, both in open and secure visiting areas. Separate areas are provided for professionals such as lawyers and social workers who require interviews with inmates. A wide range of recreation, religious, support group, alcohol counselling, academic upgrading, fine option, pre-release and medical programs are made available to adults by centre staff, volunteers and contracted agencies.

The community corrections district office is also located in a separate wing within the centre and has a separate entrance for adults and young offenders who are under community supervision. The Medicine Hat Correctional Centre is the first provincial facility to combine the community corrections function under the same roof as a correctional centre. This design promotes cost efficient delivery of a complete range of correctional programs and is intended to increase communication between corrections staff working in the centre and their counterparts in the community.

MINIMUM SECURITY CAMPS

Alberta Correctional Services operates minimum security camps which function as satellite operations of 'parent' correctional centres. The camps provide selected inmates with opportunities to live in a non-traditional correctional setting, in which personal growth and the development of responsible attitudes and work habits are encouraged through teamwork with correctional staff and other inmates.

Camp programs are oriented toward physical activities with emphasis on achievement. The inmates involved are assessed on a daily basis for both the quantity of work performed and their attitude. They become accustomed to working regular hours and learn proper and safe work habits.

While at camp, inmates participate in work projects under the direction of government departments and agencies. These projects may involve landscape maintenance, clearing brush or maintaining provincial campsites by conducting repairs and supplying firewood. Minimum security camp inmates also build picnic tables for public camp sites, collect tree cones for reforestation projects, maintain ranger stations and clear power lines.

Inmates at minimum security camps may also participate in the community work program, performing services for local communities. Some of the community work projects in which they become involved centre around community recreation facilities. Inmates at camps have constructed playgrounds, baseball diamonds and ski trails. Most communities then allow the inmates to use these facilities. This provides an additional source of recreational activity for camp residents and involves private citizens in furthering the aims of the correctional process.

One minimum security camp is operated and staffed by Native Counselling Services of Alberta. This camp provides opportunities for selected inmates to complete sentences in a Native cultural environment.

ADDRESSES

ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

1. EDMONTON REMAND CENTRE
   9660 - 104th Avenue
   Edmonton, Alberta
   T5H 4B5
   Telephone: 427-1600

2. FORT SASKATCHEWAN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
   9930 - 101 Street
   Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
   T8L 1V7
   Telephone: 992-2222

3. BELMONT CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
   P.O. Box 6057, Station C
   Edmonton, Alberta
   T5B 4K5
   Telephone: 478-8881

4. PEACE RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
   P.O. Box 900-40
   Peace River, Alberta
   T0H 2X0
   Telephone: 624-5480

5. GRANDE CACHE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
   P.O. Box 4000
   Grande Cache, Alberta
   T0E 0Y0
   Telephone: 827-4200

6. ST. PAUL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
   4367 - 45 Avenue
   P.O. Box 2740
   St. Paul, Alberta
   T0A 3A0
   Telephone: 645-5456

7. RED DEER REMAND CENTRE
Bag 5017
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 6A1
Telephone: 340-7129

8. CALGARY REMAND CENTRE
335 - 6th Avenue SE
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4V1
Telephone: 297-3300

9. CALGARY CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
P.O. Box 3250, Station 'B'
Calgary, Alberta
T2M 4L9
Telephone: 239-0010

10. BOW RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
P.O. Box 3250, Station 'B'
85 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta
T2M 4L9
Telephone: 239-7232

11. LETHBRIDGE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
P.O. Box 3001
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 3Z3
Telephone: 329-9414

12. MEDICINE HAT REMAND CENTRE
874 - 2nd Street, SE
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 8H2
Telephone: 529-2111

ADULT MINIMUM SECURITY CAMPS

1. ALSIKE CENTRE
c/o General Delivery
Alsike, Alberta
T0C 0C0
Telephone: 848-2871
Normal Capacity: 22 Males
Sponsor: Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre

2. FOOTNER LAKE
P.O. Bag 900-40
High Level, Alberta
T0H 1Z0
Telephone: 926-3023
Normal Capacity: 20 Males
Sponsor: Peace River Correctional Centre

3. FORT MCMURRAY
P.O. Box 5628
Fort McMurray, Alberta
T9H 3G5
Telephone: 791-3776
Normal Capacity: 30 Males
Sponsor: St. Paul Correctional Centre

4. KANANASKIS
c/o Calgary Correctional Centre
P.O. Box 3250, Station 'B'
Calgary, Alberta
T2M 4L9
Telephone: 591-7000
Normal Capacity: 16 Males
Sponsor: Calgary Correctional Centre

5. MEDICINE LODGE
P.O. Box 2025
Edson, Alberta
T0E 0P0
Telephone: 397-3766
Normal Capacity: 24 Males
Sponsor: Grande Cache Correctional Centre

6. NORDEGG
c/o General Delivery
Nordegg, Alberta
T0M 2H0
Telephone: 721-3777
Normal Capacity: 15
Sponsor: Calgary Correctional Centre

7. TEES
c/o General Delivery
Tees, Alberta
T0C 2N0
Telephone: 784-3993
Normal Capacity: 12 Males
Sponsor: Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre

8. WESTCASTLE
P.O. Box 2349
Pincher Creek, Alberta
T0K 1W0
Telephone: 627-3727
Normal Capacity: 14 Males
Sponsor: Lethbridge Correctional Centre
Operated By: Native Counselling Services of Alberta

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The following publications provide more detail concerning adult correctional programs. They are available by writing to the address on page 1 of this publication:

PROGRAMS

- Alberta Correctional Services – Mission Statement
- Alberta Adult Community Corrections Programs
- The Temporary Absence Program
- The Fine Option Program
- Community Service Program
- I'm a Volunteer in Corrections, How About You?
- Alsike Impaired Drivers Program
- Extended Family Visiting Program
- Alternative Supervision Program
- Women in Corrections

FACILITIES

- Edmonton Remand Centre
- Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre
- Peace River Correctional Centre
- Grande Cache Correctional Centre
- St. Paul Correctional Centre
- Belmont Correctional Centre
- Calgary Remand Centre
- Bow River Correctional Centre
- Calgary Correctional Centre
- Lethbridge Correctional Centre
- Medicine Hat Remand Centre
- Red Deer Remand Centre